IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kiyoaki MURAI et al.

Application No.: 09/966,267

Filed: October 1, 2001   Docket No.:   110750

For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS,
       ELECTRONIC DEVICE, IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM, AND RECORDING
       MEDIUM ON WHICH THE SAME PROGRAM IS RECORDED

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the Abstract filed with the substitute attached Abstract hereto.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the specification with the substitute specification attached herein.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1-22 as follows:

1.   (Amended) An image processing method, comprising:

inputting data indicating a grayscale of a pixel;

converting said input data into grayscale data which specifies a grayscale of an

image output apparatus according to predetermined characteristics; and

when said input data corresponds to a specific grayscale value which causes a

defect in an output of said image output apparatus, converting at least part of said input data into